

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 A-01 CPR-01 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 OES-03 NASA-01 /041 W

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P 251912Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3794

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3553

ALSO FOR NASA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, RO

SUBJ: NASA/GOR SPACE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS IN CONTEXT OF
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 069722; (B) BUCHAREST 2993; (C) SCIATT/

GANLEY MEMCON, 7/1/75

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT, AMBASSADOR
AND SCIATT REVIEWED GOR S&T PRIORITIES ON JULY 24 WITH PROF.
IOAN URSU, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (NCST). URSU IS ALSO CANDIDATE MEMBER OF
EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF RCP. HE WELCOMED
PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT ON BEHALF OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP,
AND DISCUSSED FOLLOWING TOPICS OF HIGH PRIORITY AND IMMEDIATE
GOR INTEREST SOME OF WHICH HE SAID MIGHT BE RAISED IN PRESIDEN-
TIAL TALKS.

2. COOPERATION WITH NASA: (REF A)

A. MANNED SPACE FLIGHT TRAINING. TOPIC WAS FIRST
RAISED DURING ASTRONAUT EUGEN CERNAN'S 1974 VISIT TO
BUCHAREST. SINCE THEN NASA DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH GOR
DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, EXPLAINING THAT SPACELAB WOULD
AFFORD FOREIGN ASTRONAUTS OPPORTUNITIES TO FLY IN
CONNECTION WITH MONITORING OR CONDUCT OF EXPERIMENTS. URSU
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SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED STRESS ON THE TOPIC BUT NOW HAS

RAISED IT AGAIN WITH RENEWED EMPHASIS.

B. GOR ACQUISITION OF U.S. INSTRUMENTATION AND INFRA-RED FILM FOR ERS SURVEYS BY AIRCRAFT. NASA ALREADY HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST AND ADVISE ROMANIANS AS APPROPRIATE.

C. METEOROLOGICAL ROCKET LAUNCH SITE: NASA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RESEARCH COOPERATION USING METEOROLOGICAL ROCKETS, AND HAS INVITED A ROMANIAN PROPOSAL. NASA IS WILLING TO SEEK TO HELP WITH EQUIPMENT IN CONTEXT OF ANY COOPERATIVE PROJECT, BUT HAS ADVISED GOR THAT ACTUAL ROCKET DEVELOPMENT IS OUTSIDE ITS SCOPE. GOR TODAY RAISED MATTER SEPARATELY THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS AND WITH EMBASSY DAO (SEPTTEL).

D. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S AIRCRAFT. GOR INTERESTED TO PROCEED ON PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DURING RECENT VISIT BY DOS/OES OFFICIAL DR. OSWALD GANLEY, GOR WAS INFORMED PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE WAS FEASIBLE AND THAT BASIC UNIT WOULD COST ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS. GOR WAS ALSO TOLD ACCESS TO THE VARIOUS NATIONAL "SEMI-COMMERCIAL" HIGH FREQUENCY GROUND STATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED SEPARATELY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. DR. GANLEY HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE LIST OF SUCH STATIONS, OR THEIR RESPONSIBLE CORRESPONDENTS, IF FEASIBLE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT.

E. NASA DELEGATION VISIT TO BUCHAREST. PROF. ALEXANDRU SPATARU, PRESIDENT OF NCST'S COMMISSION FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES, HAS ISSUED AN INVITATION THROUGH NASA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR SMALL NASA DELEGATION TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF ALL ABOVE ITEMS IN BUCHAREST. RESPONSE TO INVITATION EAGERLY AWAITED.

3. A SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TOPIC NOT RAISED JULY 24 BY PROF. URSU, ORIGINATED IN OCTOBER 1974. DURING DOC TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CO-CHAIRMAN JOHN SODOLSKI OF ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES
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ASSOCIATION WAS GIVEN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NATION-WIDE MOBIL VIP COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR USE BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (INCLUDING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU). SPECS WERE PROVIDED BY ROMANIAN FTO CONTRASIMEX. DOC CONFIRMED IN APRIL THIS YEAR THAT MOTOROLA SHOWED INTEREST AND WAS PREPARING PROPOSAL, DESPITE EVIDENCE THAT ROMANIANS SEEMED UNSURE OF WHAT THEY WANTED. ALTHOUGH INITIATIVES REMAIN IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, EMBASSY

BELIEVES DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP WITH DOC AND MOTOROLA
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

4. COMMENT: AS RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ROMANIAN
S&T AFFAIRS HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY CONCENTRATED IN NCST
OVER PAST YEAR, PROFESSOR URSU HAS BECOME GOR SPOKESMAN
FOR INCREASING RANGE OF TOPICS. EMBASSY HAS NO
DOUBT HE DIRECTLY REFLECTS CEAUSESCU'S VIEWS. WHILE
ALL ITEMS COVERED ABOVE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED UP BY
DEPARTMENT, NASA, AND DOC, IT IS APPARENT CEAUSESCU
SEEKS HIGH-LEVEL REASSURANCES THAT U.S. ATTENTION TO
THEM HAS NOT WANED.

5. EMBASSY NOTES THAT JULY 22 WIRELESS FILE
CARRIED ITEM THAT APOLLO ASTRONAUTS WERE PHOTOGRAPHING
60 PRESELECTED SITES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING
DANUBE RIVER DELTA, AS PART OF APOLLO/SOYUS FLIGHT.
ROMANIANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY APPRECIATE BACKGROUND MATERIAL FROM
NASA. PERHAPS PRESIDENTIAL VISIT ALSO OFFERS OCCASION TO
MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DATA AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, SPACE EXPLORATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR03553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-1086
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750719/aaaaaqje.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 69722, 75 BUCHAREST 2993
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NASA/GOR SPACE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS IN CONTEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
TAGS: TSPA, RO, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (URSU, IOAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006